

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 472 - HB 504**

March 10, 2013

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires each comprehensive district-wide school safety plan to require at least one school resource officer (SRO) or similar trained staff member to be present at each school within the local education agency (LEA) during school hours. Requires any non-SRO staff members to follow the same training as SROs. Authorizes any non-SRO staff member that has completed training to carry a firearm on school grounds. Authorizes the Commissioner of Education to withhold state funding from any LEA that fails to establish or implement such plans. Authorizes any member of the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System who would fall under mandatory retirement provisions pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-56-205 to be exempted from such provisions if employed by an LEA as a SRO.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase Local Expenditures - \$1,652,000/One-Time\***  
**Exceeds \$22,700,000/Recurring\***

Assumptions:

- There are 1,784 schools in Tennessee and an estimated 700 SROs.
- Based on information received from the Department of Education (DOE), it is reasonably estimated that 60 percent of schools without an SRO, or 650 [60% x (1,784 - 100)], will utilize similarly-trained staff members who are current employees, and 40 percent, or 434 [40% x (1,784 - 700)] will employ a new SRO.
- Based on information received from DOE, the cost for a full-time SRO is estimated to be between \$50,000 to \$75,000 with salary, benefits, training, and equipment.
- The minimum expenditure for each new full-time SRO employed is reasonably estimated to be \$50,000 per year (including benefits and required training).
- The recurring increase in local expenditures to employ new SROs is estimated to exceed \$21,700,000 (\$50,000 x 434).
- DOE estimates the one-time cost to train an existing staff member to be \$2,500 per person.
- The one-time increase in local expenditures to train existing staff members is estimated to be \$1,652,000 (\$2,500 x 650).
- LEAs that utilize similarly trained staff will purchase additional liability insurance as a result of arming staff members. Based on information received from DOE, the recurring increase in local expenditures for insurance is estimated to exceed \$1,000,000 statewide.

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The total recurring increase in local expenditures is estimated to exceed \$22,700,000 (\$21,700,000 + \$1,000,000 insurance).

- The number of full-time SROs will remain unchanged.
- Retired TCRS members who become SROs will not be authorized to draw retirement benefits while they are employed as an SRO.

*\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

## **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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